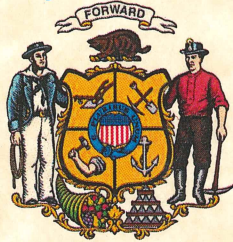


STATE of WISCONSIN



OFFICE of the GOVERNOR

Proclamation

WHEREAS; Wisconsin workers and reformers have long made important contributions in the history of labor in the United States, having helped enact new state laws early in the twentieth century, such as Worker's Compensation and Unemployment Insurance, that, in turn, were adopted by other states and the federal government; and

WHEREAS; in the late 1800s, workers were still struggling to attain basic rights in the workplace, and labored at physically-punishing jobs for 10 to 12 hours a day, six days a week; and

WHEREAS; in the 1880s, workers in Milwaukee began to advocate for the eight-hour workday, an early cornerstone of the basic bill of rights of all people in the workplace, however as employers made few efforts toward adopting this standard, eventually workers' organizations across the nation called upon all workers to cease their labor if employers had not adopted a standard eight-hour workday by May 1, 1886; and

WHEREAS; in Milwaukee, civil parades and demonstrations developed over the first five days of May 1886, as workers peaceably and without violence joined the national work stoppage to protest and abolish inhumane work hours; and

WHEREAS; by May 5, 1886, unrest among Milwaukee's laborers over the struggle for better work hours had led to more than a dozen strikes in the city, involving carpenters, coal heavers, sewer diggers, iron moulders, teamsters, common laborers, and other workers asking for humane work hours, and the last grand factory in Milwaukee still in operation that day was the North Chicago Rolling Mill, in Bay View, which manufactured rails for the nation's railroads; and

WHEREAS; in an attempt to get the Rolling Mill workers to join the strike, a group of laborers walked toward the mill and were fired upon by the state militia, killing seven and injuring four more, much of the remaining laborers were charged with rioting and conspiracy for simply exercising their right to freely assemble; and

WHEREAS; the infamous events of May 5, 1886, will remain a part of Wisconsin's cultural and economic legacy forever and should remind us to honor the sacrifices of our forebears, including laying down their lives, so that all those who labor might lead safer and more productive work lives;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Tony Evers, Governor of the state of Wisconsin,
do hereby proclaim May 5, 2019 as

BAYVIEW LABOR STRIKE AND TRAGEDY REMEMBRANCE DAY

throughout the state of Wisconsin and I commend this observance to all of our citizens.



IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the state of Wisconsin to be affixed. Done at the Capitol in the city of Madison this 2nd day of May 2019.

Tony Evers
TONY EVERS
GOVERNOR

By the Governor:

Douglas La Follette
DOUGLAS LA FOLLETTE
Secretary of State